

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel comprising:

an annular rim section including:

a core; and

arcuate-shaped and elongated rim elements mounted on said core, each of said elongated rim elements being formed of thermosoftening synthetic resin material blended with woodmeal so as to have an outer surface of said thermosoftening synthetic resin material and said woodmeal, ~~with an~~ said outer surface having a mold-formed annular streak pattern extending along a longitudinal axis of each of said elongated rim elements, said mold-formed annular streak pattern being defined by said woodmeal within said thermosoftening synthetic resin material.

16. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein said thermosoftening synthetic resin material includes a color pigment blended therein such that said annular streak pattern on said outer surface of each of said rim elements includes annular streaks of different colors.

17. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 16, wherein said rim section has surface unevenness.

18. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 15, further comprising a boss section and a spoke section, said annular rim section being connected to said boss section by said spoke section.

19. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein said arcuate rim elements include a front-side rim element having a central longitudinal groove, and include a rear-side rim element having a central longitudinal groove, said core being fit into said central

longitudinal groove of each of said front-side rim element and said rear-side rim element so as to mount said rim elements on said core.

20. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 19, wherein said front-side rim element and said rear-side rim element are mounted on said core so as to form an annular seam between said front-side rim element and said rear-side rim element, the steering wheel further comprising a cover member mounted on said seam.

21. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein said arcuate rim elements include an outer-side rim element having a central longitudinal groove, and include an inner-side rim element having a central longitudinal groove, said core being fit into said central longitudinal groove of each of said outer-side rim element and said inner side-side rim element so as to mount said rim elements on said core.

22. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 21, wherein said outer-side rim element and said inner side-side rim element are mounted on said core so as to form an annular seam between said outer-side rim element and said inner side-side rim element, the steering wheel further comprising a cover member mounted on said seam

23. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein said arcuate rim elements are mounted on said core so as to form a seam between said arcuate rim elements, the steering wheel further comprising a cover member mounted on said seam.

24. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 15, further comprising a coating covering said arcuate rim elements.

25. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 24, wherein said protective coating covers only a front-side portion of said arcuate rim elements.

26. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 15, further comprising transfer print on a front-side of said annular rim section.

27. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein said annular rim section further includes a grip portion formed of flexible urethane and mounted on said core.

28. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein said arcuate rim elements include a first rim element having a longitudinal notch formed therein for receiving said core, and a second rim element having a uniform thickness substantially equal to a diameter of said core and being fitted into said notch of said first rim element after said core.

29. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 26, wherein said transfer print includes a transfer ink layer having a thickness gradually reduced toward a rear-side of said annular rim section so that a ground pattern formed by said transfer ink layer gradually appears on said annular rim section when viewed from said rear-side toward said front-side.

30. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel comprising:  
an annular rim section including:  
a metal core; and  
arcuate-shaped and elongated rim elements mounted on said core, each of said elongated rim elements being formed of thermosoftening synthetic resin material blended with woodmeal so as to have an outer surface of said thermosoftening resin material and said woodmeal, said outer surface of each of said elongated rim elements having ~~an~~ a mold-formed annular streak pattern formed thereon due to said woodmeal being incompletely homogenized in said thermosoftening resin material so as to extend along a longitudinal axis of each of said elongated rim elements, said mold-formed annular streak pattern being defined by said woodmeal within said thermosoftening synthetic resin material.

31. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 30, wherein said thermosoftening synthetic resin material includes a color pigment blended therein so that said annular streak pattern on said outer surface of each of said rim elements includes annular streaks of different colors.

32. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 31, wherein at least one of said rim elements is provided thereon with surface unevenness in such a manner that said annular streak pattern extends along a longitudinal axis of said at least one rim element without being disordered by said holding unevenness.